



# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

## BEACONSFIELD URBAN DISTRICT

*For the Year 1919.*



HIGH WYCOMBE:

The Bucks Free Press, Limited, 20, High Street.





# BEACONSFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

---

## Medical Officer's Annual Report to the Beaconsfield Urban District Council.

---

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1919, this being my nineteenth Annual Report to your Council on the Sanitary Conditions and General Health of the town.

Although for years we have been labouring under difficulties, owing to the pressure of war and finance, it may be said that during the past year some progress has been made. The erection of a Public Mortuary towards the end of the year is a distinct advancement, and has since proved most efficient. In the past, cases of sudden death, by disease or accident, have often been very difficult to deal with, especially if a post-mortem has been ordered. The Ambulance, which is kept at the Police Station, and was purchased by your Council, is also a public advantage. Under the Housing and Town Planning Scheme, a special Committee was selected, and a special general house-to-house inspection was ordered to be carried out by the Acting Surveyor and myself at a meeting of your Council in June, in accordance with Government instructions, to show the possible number of new cottages required in the district for the future. A special record has been kept in books provided for that purpose, and have since been handed to your Council for their consideration and instructions, under the General Order of the Ministry of Health.

A full report of what had been advised and done in past years will be found in my Annual Report of 1918, under Housing of the Working Classes.

We have been very free from serious notifiable infectious diseases, only one case of diphtheria having been reported.

A number of cases of Measles have been notified. Influenza, which subsided at the end of last year, unfortunately reappeared in February, but not of so severe or serious type. Towards the latter end of the year the onset of the disease commenced with vomiting, succeeded later with epistaxis.

Memoranda on Influenza were received from the Ministry of Health on past and present epidemics, with remarks on a few measures to be taken for personal protection. Many of the suggestions in the Memo. were practically those made by me to your Council in November, 1918.

I must again bring before the notice of your Council and the general public the importance of Vaccination. In nearly every

Annual Report I have urged the danger of granting and signing exemption papers by qualified J.P.s, without any consideration or information regarding the benefits of Vaccination to those seeking the request.

In my Annual Report, 1916, I said: "I regret that the number of Vaccinations performed in this district each year were becoming fewer in number. It is deplorable, when one thinks of the money that has been spent, and the work that has been done by the profession in endeavouring to bring the methods of preparing the Lymph and the careful and scientific method of inoculating it to the highest state of perfection, and I think that every Authority should use its power in forwarding the principal of Vaccination in its district.

It must be remembered that with the conditions of things that must come in the near future, some diseases, such as Small Pox, will again make themselves a scourge to the community.

Cesspools have been, and are still, a bone of contention between the public and your officials. I am frequently having complaints about them; in many instances they are inefficient, and the continuous rainfall has made many overflow, which have hitherto given us no trouble. Again, the shortage of labour during the War has greatly handicapped us—men usually employed only for that work had, from time to time, to be taken off for road and other work.

However, with the end of the War, and the prospect of replacing our staff, I trust that the roads will gradually shape into condition, and that the Council will endeavour to have the roads made up and the houses connected with the drainage scheme, thus reducing the number of cesspools to be emptied.

Besides the general routine of clerical work, a general inspection, from time to time, of Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses, Cowsheds, Dairies, Pigstyes, Cottage Dwellings, Yards, etc., intructions to, and inspections with your Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. Smith, of houses infected with disease, cesspools, over-crowding, diseased food, and food unfit for human consumption; and, finally, places where animals have died from disease communicatable to man, and persons who have been in contact, have been carried out by me during the year.

## **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

This is a very important matter, and is still being carried out satisfactorily under the same conditions which I advised to your Council in 1917, and which was fully reported on in the Annual Report of that year.

Our District Nurse, Miss Mossman, is doing good work in this direction.

I should, however, like to revert to what I have stated before. The relation of the quality and quantity of food to the kind of work done by each individual being of the greatest importance, not



only to the individual health, and the amount of work done, but to their descendants.

The man or woman engaged on sedentary work can do better work on a light diet, such as eggs, cooked in different ways, fish, soups, bread and butter, tea, coffee, and minerals, but the worker engaged on laborious occupation requires meat, etc., in proportion to the weight of his labour, and that again depends upon his natural physique.

Moreover, if the general physique and resisting power is allowed to drop to a low ebb from improper or insufficient food, so surely is the individual more liable to be infected with disease. Therefore, there can be no doubt that it is the duty of Authorities to do everything in their power to get a wholesome, good, and reasonable food supply into their district.

The War and the day of profiteering and Government Food Control should be done with.

The health of the nation depends on a good, wholesome food supply, at a reasonable price.

### **Cowsheds and Dairies.**

These have been inspected from time to time, and instructions given for re-lime-washing, etc., where required.

A pure and sufficient Milk Supply to a district is of the highest importance, especially for the younger population. It is the most nourishing of foods, and most delicate, because it changes in character, chiefly due to micro-organisms, the moment it is drawn from the cow. It is said the best milk for keeping is that first milked. To insure a good, pure milk supply depends on several important factors:—The periodical examination of milk cows for tuberculosis, etc., and the destruction of those proved to be infected with disease; and likewise the periodical cleansing, lime-washing, and repairing of stalls, sheds, and flooring. Again, efficient, and cleanly men and women to see to the grooming, cleaning of udders, and looking after the general health and cleanliness of the cows.

It is most important that all persons engaged in the milk industry, and especially the milkers, should be free from disease, and scrupulously clean, thoroughly washing their hands and arms before milking operations, and wear clean smocks or overalls; and, lastly, the importance of all dairy utensils and cans, churns, etc., and the thorough sterilising of bottles used for purveying to customers for use for infants.

### **Slaughterhouses.**

The registered slaughterhouses have been visited at regular intervals, and found in satisfactory condition.

### **Bakehouses.**

The Bakehouses have likewise been regularly inspected, and found kept in a cleanly condition, and lime-washed when required.

**Table of Causes of Death.**

	Males.	Females.
Enteric Fever .....	—	1
Diphtheria and Croup .....	—	1
Influenza .....	1	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	—	2
Cancer .....	1	2
Organic Heart Disease .....	4	1
Bronchitis .....	1	1
Pneumonia .....	—	2
Bright's Disease .....	—	2
Congenital Debility .....	1	—
Violence, apart from suicide...	2	—
Other defined diseases .....	2	6
	—	—
Total from all causes ...	12	20

32 deaths.

Population estimated by Register gives:—

Death Rate, per 1,000 population, 8.9.

Birth Rate, per 1,000 population, 15.0.

Infant Mortality, estimated per 1,000 births, 53.5.

The Circulars and Memoranda received from the Ministry of Health have been dealt with by your Council.

The methods of dealing with infectious diseases have so often been repeated in my reports that it is unnecessary to refer to them.

In conclusion I should like to thank Mr. H. T. Smith, your Inspector of Nuisances and Surveyor, for the assistance he has given me in the past year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR H. TURNER,

Medical Officer of Health to the Beaconsfield  
Urban District Council.

Leigh House, Beaconsfield,

May, 1920.

**SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1919.**

This return does not include work done under the Housing Acts.

**I.—GENERAL.**

Number of Inspections .....	106
Complaints received .....	14
Nuisances detected without complaint .....	22
Notices served ... 14 Informal 10. Formal 4. ....	28
Nuisances abated—	
(a) By persons responsible .....	26
(b) By Council .....	None
Summonses taken out .....	None
Convictions .....	None

## II.—HOUSE NUISANCES.

Roofs repaired .....	1
Spouts cleaned and repaired .....	1
Pavements repaired .....	—
Overcrowding abated .....	2
Dirty houses cleansed .....	—
Other defects remedied .....	—

## III.—DRAINS, W.C's., PRIVIES, Etc.

Total Defects found .....	2
Drains cleansed, repaired, or ventilated .....	1
New drains laid .....	1
W.C.s constructed .....	—
W.C.s repaired .....	2
W.C.s supplied with water (formerly without) .....	—
Privies repaired .....	—

## IV.—WATER SUPPLY.

Houses supplied with water during year (formerly without) .....	None
Samples taken for analysis ..... good. .... bad ...	None
Certificates granted (Rural Districts only) .....	None
Certificates deferred (Rural Districts only)) .....	None
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, etc. ....	None
Wells cleansed or repaired .....	None

## V.—FOOD.

Seizure of unsound food ..... 4. Details separately.	
Surrender of unsound food ... 0. Details separately.	
Two carcasses of beef.	
Four carcasses of frozen mutton.	
One box of dates.	

## VI.—SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number on Register .....	3
Number of inspections .....	36
Number of defects found .....	1
Number remedied .....	1

## VII.—BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register .....	4
Number of Inspections .....	48
Number of defects found .....	1
Number remedied .....	1

## VIII.—DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk on Register	4
Number of Cowkeepers on Register .....	4
Number of Inspections .....	48
Number of defects found .....	1
Number remedied .....	1

## IX.—FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number on Register .....	10
Number of Inspections .....	60
Number of defects found .....	2
Number remedied .....	2

## X.—VARIOUS.

Removal or animals improperly kept .....	None
Visits to infected houses .....	12
Houses disinfected .....	12
Other items (e.g.), Common Lodging Houses, Canal Boats, etc.) .....	None

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD TABLE.**

STATEMENT required by Article V of the Housing (Inspection of Districts) Regulations, 1910, in regard to the inspection of dwelling houses under Section 19 (1) of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

Number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purpose of the Act .....	79
Number of such dwelling houses which were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	22
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which representations were made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders .....	None
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made by the Local Authority .....	None
Number of dwelling houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders .....	None
Number of dwelling houses which, after the making of the closing orders, were made fit for human habitation .....	None
Note.—Inspection not completed at end of year.	

## GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DEFECTS FOUND:—

(a) Drainage defects .....	6
(b) Closet accommodation (insufficient or defective) .....	4
(c) Water supply exposed to surface pollution .....	—
(d) Insufficient circulation of air .....	68
(e) Dampness .....	10
(f) Insufficient light .....	60
(g) Dirty, by landlord's default .....	—
(h) Dirty, by tenant's default .....	—
(i) Dirty by default of landlord and tenant .....	—
(j) Insufficient paving .....	—
(k) Deficient method of refuse disposal .....	21
(l) Internal defects .....	15
(m) Defective roofs or gutters or down pipes .....	18

Note.—The Medical Officer of Health is also required by the Article above mentioned to include in his Annual Report, in addition to the above particulars, any information and particulars which he may consider desirable in regard to the work of inspection under the said Section. He should also include an account of any other action taken by the Local Authority under the above-mentioned Act on the Public Health.